

REMARKS

Claims 12-15 have been canceled. Claims 1-11 and 16-27 are now pending.

Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening dependent claim 7. Claim 9 is accordingly submitted as being in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claim 19 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of base claim 16 and intervening dependent claim 17. Claim 19 is accordingly submitted as being in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Claims 1-11 were objected to because of certain noted informalities. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 to address these informalities. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Danstrom.

Claim 1 has been amended to emphasize that first voltage regulator supply input is coupled to a common unregulated supply voltage, and further that switching circuitry is operable responsive to the output of compare circuitry for applying either a first unregulated supply voltage or a second unregulated supply voltage as the common unregulated supply voltage. In this implementation, the compare circuitry compares the first unregulated supply voltage to a reference voltage. The claimed circuit is neither disclosed nor suggested by Danstrom.

In Danstrom a first voltage regulator is formed by transistor Q18 of Fig. 2 and its related circuitry (M18, Q117, Q16, R114, Q114, Q112, Q119, M12 and M102) supplied from unregulated voltage vin2. A comparison circuit receiving voltage vin2 is shown in Figure 3. There is no teaching or suggestion in Danstrom, however, for any sort of switching circuitry,

responsive to the comparison circuit of Figure 3 for making a selection to apply vin2 or some other voltage as the unregulated voltage for the first voltage regulator. On the contrary, Danstrom specifically shows in Figure 2 that the only unregulated supply voltage for the first regulator circuit (Q18, et al.) is vin2. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 distinguishes over Danstrom.

Turning next to dependent claim 2, Applicant claims a second voltage regulator. Danstrom teaches a second voltage regulator in Fig. 2 formed from transistor Q17 and its related circuitry (M17, Q116, Q15, R113, Q113, Q111, Q118, M11 and M101). This second voltage regulator is supplied with unregulated (battery) voltage vin1. In claim 2, however, Applicant claims that the first and second voltage regulators each receive the common unregulated supply voltage, with that common unregulated supply voltage being one of the first and second unregulated supply voltages selected by the switching circuit in response to the compare circuitry output. In other words, the first and second regulators are supplied with the same unregulated voltage, with that voltage being chosen between two other unregulated voltages. This feature is clearly not taught by Danstrom which instead teaches applying separate unregulated vin1 and vin2 supply voltages for the two included voltage regulators. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 distinguishes over Danstrom.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-8 and 10-11 are patentable over Danstrom and in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Turning next to claim 16, Applicant has amended this claim to emphasize that a first voltage regulator receives a common unregulated supply voltage and a switching circuit applies either a first unregulated supply voltage or a second unregulated supply voltage as the common

unregulated supply voltage to the first voltage regulator. As discussed above, Danstrom teaches having the only unregulated supply voltage for the first regulator circuit (Q18, et al.) be vin2 (or alternatively, the only unregulated supply voltage for the second regulator circuit (Q17, et al.) be vin1). There is no teaching or suggestion for a common unregulated supply voltage that is selectively chosen through a switching circuit to be either one of a first or second unregulated supply voltage. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 16 distinguishes over Danstrom.

Turning next to claim 20, Applicant further claims a second voltage regulator also receiving the common unregulated supply voltage. While Danstrom teaches two voltage regulators (based on transistors Q17 and Q18), it is clear that these regulators receive separate supply voltages vin1 and vin2. There is no “common unregulated supply voltage” as claimed, and still further there is no switching circuit for selectively applying two separate unregulated supply voltages as the common unregulated supply voltage to both voltage regulators. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 distinguishes over Danstrom.

In claim 25, Applicant further claims a compare circuit that compares the first unregulated supply voltage to a predetermined reference voltage and generates a signal having a value indicative of that comparison. The generated signal is coupled to the enable input of the first voltage regulator and further controls the operation of the switching circuit. There is no teaching or suggestion in Danstrom for the comparator circuit of Fig. 3 operating to generate a control signal which controls both the enabling of the Q18 voltage regulator circuit and a separate switching circuit which supplies the Q18 voltage regulator with a selected one of two

available unregulated supply voltages. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 25 distinguishes over Danstrom.

Still further, in claim 27, Applicant claims in the context of having first and second voltage regulator circuits receiving the common unregulated supply voltage, a compare circuit that compares the first unregulated supply voltage to a predetermined reference voltage and generates a signal having a value indicative of that comparison. The generated signal is coupled to the enable inputs of the first and second voltage regulators so as to alternately enable the regulators and is further coupled to control the operation of the switching circuit to alternately select the first and second unregulated supply voltages as the common unregulated supply voltage. There is no teaching or suggestion in Danstrom for the claimed combination of selectively controlling enablement of the first and second voltage regulators while selectively choosing first and second unregulated supply voltages as the common unregulated supply voltage based on the comparison result. Applicant accordingly submits that claim 27 is patentable over Danstrom.

With respect to dependent claims 8 and 18, Applicant notes that the Office Action fails to explain how the Danstrom transistors Q17 and/or Q18 meet the claimed "saturation mode" limitation. Applicant requests that the Examiner provide citation in support of the rejection of claims 8 and 18.

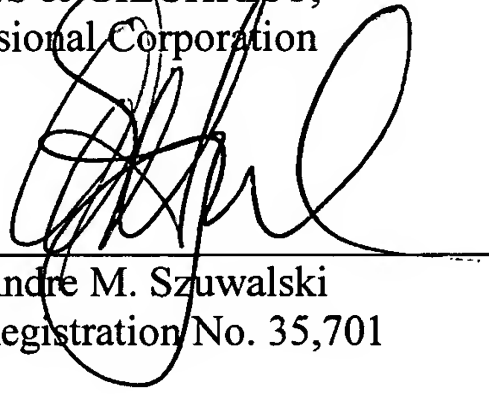
CUSTOMER NO. 30430

PATENT APPLICATION
Docket No. 03-C-006

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-11 and 16-27 are in condition for favorable action and allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
JENKENS & GILCHRIST,
A Professional Corporation

By:



Andre M. Szuwalski
Registration No. 35,701

1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3700
Dallas, Texas 75202-2799
Tel: 214/855-4795
Fax: 214/855-4300